Amendm nts to the claims:

8. (currently amended) A device for automatically switching lighting devices in a vehicle~~s~~, ~~having~~ comprising,

a sensor device (20) ~~by which~~ for detecting the light intensity in ~~the~~ surroundings of the vehicle ~~is detected,~~ ;

~~wherein the sensor device (20) has~~ at least one global sensor (22) provided in the sensor device for nondirectionally detecting ~~, by which~~ the general light intensity in the surroundings of the vehicle; ~~is detected nondirectionally and which has~~

at least one directional sensor (24) provided in the at least one global sensor for directionally detecting ~~, by which~~ the light intensity ~~is detected directionally,~~ at least approximately in the travel direction (14) of the vehicle~~, and having~~ ;

an evaluation device (30) ~~, by which~~ for comparing ~~the~~ current signals (S1, S2) of the sensors (22, 24) of the sensor device (20) ~~are compared~~ with ~~the~~ threshold values (SE), ~~and~~ wherein if at least one of the threshold values (SE) is undershot, the lighting devices (10, 12) are switched on, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein at least indirectly, the current temperature of the sensor device (20) is detected and a signal (ST) pertaining to ~~it~~ the current temperature is delivered to the evaluation device (30);

~~that~~ a memory, wherein in the evaluation device (30), temperature-dependent basic signals (S10, S20) of the sensors (22, 24) of the sensor device

(20) are stored in the memory without incidence of light ~~incidence;~~, and ~~that~~ wherein by means of the evaluation device (30), a correction of the current signals (S1, S2) of the sensors (22, 24) of the sensor device (20) and/or of the threshold values (SE) is effected in accordance with the basic signals (S10, S20).

9. The device of claim ~~1~~ 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein by means of the evaluation device (30), ~~the~~ a rate of change (dS/dt) of the signals (S2, S2) of the sensor device (20) are ascertained, and ~~that~~ wherein the threshold values (SE) are varied as a function of the rate of change (dS/dt) of the signals (S1, S2), in such a way that at a high rate of change (dS/dt), the threshold values (SE) are higher than at a low rate of change (dS/dt).

10. (currently amended) The device of claim ~~1~~ 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein by means of the evaluation device (30), the threshold values (SE) are varied as a function of the absolute values of the signals (S1, S2) of the sensor device (20), in such a way that for a signal (S1, S2) that is decreasing from a high absolute value, the threshold values (SE) are higher than for a signal (S1, S2) that is decreasing from a low absolute value.

11. (currently amended) The device of claim ~~1~~ 8, characterized n that wherein the evaluation device (30) is supplied with a signal (SG) for ~~the~~ a current speed of the vehicle, and ~~that~~ wherein the processing of the signals (S1, S2) of the sensors (22, 24) of the sensor device (20) by the evaluation device

(30) is effected in clocked fashion as a function of the speed of the vehicle, in such a manner that the processing at high speed is done at a higher clock frequency than at low speed.

12. (currently amended) The device of claim [4] 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the clock frequency is varied as a function of the speed in such a way that ~~the~~ a distance the vehicle covers between successive processing cycles is ~~at least~~ approximately constant.

13. (currently amended) The device of claim ~~1~~ 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a further sensor device (34) for detecting precipitation is provided, ~~by which~~ wherein a signal (SR) is generated at least indirectly by said further sensor device and delivered to the evaluation device (30), and ~~that~~ wherein by the evaluation device (30), a variation in the threshold values (SE) is effected in such a manner that the threshold values (SE) are higher ~~in the presence of~~ when precipitation is present than when ~~in the absence of~~ precipitation is absent.

14. (currently amended) The device of claim ~~6~~ 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the signal (SR) generated at least indirectly by the further sensor device (34) is dependent on the intensity of the precipitation, and ~~that~~ wherein by means of the evaluation device (30), a variation in the threshold values (SE) is effected in such a manner that the threshold values (SE) are higher at high intensity of the precipitation than at low intensity of the precipitation.